

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (canceled)
2. (canceled)
3. (canceled)
4. (canceled)
5. (canceled)
6. (canceled)
7. (original) A method for constructing cis-aminoacylating catalytic RNA molecules comprising the steps of:
 - a. providing a tRNA-like molecule;
 - b. providing a ribozyme domain molecule;
 - c. attaching the ribozyme domain molecule to the 5' end of the tRNA-like molecule to obtain a pool of ribozyme-tRNA molecules;
 - d. contacting the ribozyme-tRNA molecules with an amino acid substrate;
 - e. partitioning the aminoacylated ribozyme-tRNA molecules from the remainder of the ribozyme-tRNA molecules to obtain cis-aminoacylating catalytic RNA molecules.
8. (canceled)
9. (canceled)
10. (canceled)
11. (canceled)
12. (canceled)
13. (new) The method of claim 7, wherein the tRNA-like molecule consists of SEQ ID NO: 16.
14. (new) The method of claim 7, wherein the ribozyme domain molecule consists of SEQ ID NO: 9.
15. (new) The method of claim 7 wherein the cis-aminoacylating catalytic RNA molecules consist of, from 5' to 3', SEQ IN NO: 9, SEQ. ID NO: 16.

16. (new) The method of claim 7 wherein the amino acid substrate is an N-biotinyl-L-aminoacyl-cyanomethyl-ester.

17. (new) A method for constructing cis-aminoacylating catalytic RNA molecules comprising the steps of:

- a. providing RNA molecules having a tRNA-like domain and a 5'-leader ribozyme;
- b. contacting the RNA molecules with an amino acid substrate; and
- c. partitioning aminoacylated RNA molecules from non-aminoacylated RNA molecules

wherein the aminoacylated RNA molecules are cis-aminoacylating catalytic RNA molecules aminoacylated with the amino acid substrate.

18. (new) The method of claim 17 wherein the tRNA-like domain is SEQ ID NO: 16

19. (new) The method of claim 17 wherein the 5'-leader ribozyme is SEQ ID NO: 9.

20. (new) The method of claim 17 wherein the amino acid substrate is an N-biotinyl-L-aminoacyl-cyanomethyl-ester.